

March 5, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney. Senator Whitney. Senator Fellman. That's all I have on the list. What do you..... whoop.....whoop.....whoop.....Senator Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Has a record vote been requested. I just wanted to make sure of that point and I hope it's put on the front page of the World-Herald.

PRESIDENT: If there's no one else to talk, Senator Stahmer gets to close on his motion. Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Senator Proud, I'm going to do you one better. When election time comes up, by God, I'll take out some ads in the World-Herald and we'll let the people know who voted for them and who voted against them. We've got a lot of candidates in this Body. Whoopee, I'm glad we do. And you're going to be surprised. You're going to get the shock of your life, some of you, if you don't think the people in the City of Omaha don't want this. And anyone who's running for state office sure as hell better think twice because you'll find out. That's my opinion, I could be wrong, but I've had a lot of people say, Senator Stahmer, you're right. We admire your guts, you're the only one that has the courage to stand up and tell it like it is. And I've got plenty of letters to back it up in case you don't think so. And don't be misled by what you read or don't read in the World-Herald. Or don't be misled what you see or don't see on television. If anyone thinks there's free press in this country, I'll go to bat for Nixon any time. He's no great ideal friend of mine but believe me, news gets suppressed. And it has been suppressed. And the chief item of news that has been suppressed is the lack of quality of education within schools within the Omaha district. You think the World-Herald wants to go out and really find out what kind of quality is in those schools? Oh, hell no. You think the news people, the tv people want to go out and find out.....oh, they're busy. They're reporting some \$20,000 fire in some bar. That's what they're doing. But I'm not going to carry this on. I'm going to close but I want to make just one or two more remarks before I sit down. Many of you will compliment me on my children when I bring them down here and say how wonderful it is, Senator Stahmer, you have such great children. And you're going to let the children of that district have their educational throats cut in a district, the only one of its kind in the whole state. It's a class, it's in a class by itself. No other city is this way. We're not asking it for any other city. Just in that one special area do we have this. And the bums that hit the red light, they're going to be cutting the throats educationally of a lot of children. And if anyone, the news media, have the guts to go in and find out what is going on, they would bear out my statement. So help me God. I'd like to have the recommendation of one person who once suggested these districts be merged. And guess who that person was? I was told this by Mr. Norm Otto, that when he was in this Body in 1957, the last time this issue came up, who prevailed upon him to vote for the merger? None other than Von Phelps who was then interested in merging school districts out in rural Nebraska. Interesting, isn't it? Ah, maybe that's why Mr. Phelps didn't testify when the bill went before Education Committee. But this is not a rehash. We're changing this, we're asking for a vote of the people. And you said before in this Body we can't give Senator Chambers his school board by district because the people or.....correction..... city council by district because the people have spoken on this issue. But they can't speak on the issue in education,